



The Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA)

Small Scale Biodiesel Facility Regulatory Fact Sheet

With the increased interest and accessibility in producing renewable non-petroleum (or reduced petroleum) based fuel, more individuals are beginning to manufacture their own biodiesel. Whether the biodiesel is for your own use or you intend to sell it, there are regulations that you need to follow. You should know about these regulations and permits before beginning the process. Environmental issues, proper handling of waste, time spent and costs incurred are important factors to consider.

Small-Scale Biodiesel Producers

“Small-scale” biodiesel makers are those that produce biodiesel to use for their personal vehicles (not for business). If you are required to obtain a local or state permit to manufacture the biodiesel you will have to complete a [State Environmental Policy Act](#) (SEPA) checklist. Check with your city or county to see where you should submit the checklist. Production at this level for personal consumption is below the level of regulatory concern for Air and Water Quality Discharge permits. However, there are other permits and/or approvals that may be required. Please note that if you intend to sell the biodiesel you produce, there are additional permits and licenses required.

The permits, regulations, and licenses required for biodiesel production are separated into two parts below.

- The first section addresses those who intend to make biodiesel for their own personal use.
- The second section is for those who intend to sell the biodiesel they manufacture.
- If you are manufacturing biodiesel for your farm you may be exempt from certain permits; however, you should contact the appropriate agencies to verify that no permits are needed.

If you intend to manufacture biodiesel for your own use contact the following agencies for possible permit requirements:

1. The local fire marshal: For regulations regarding storage tanks, as well as the type, location, quantity and concentration of chemicals stored on a property. Depending on the above factors there are certain fire permits that may be required.
2. The city or county: Contact your local permitting department. You may require zoning or land use permits.

If you intend to manufacture small amounts of biodiesel to sell commercially you are subject to more regulations. To find out what you may require please contact the following:

1. The local fire marshal: For regulations regarding storage tanks, as well as the type, location, quantity and concentration of chemicals stored on a property. Depending on the above factors there are certain fire permits that may be required.
2. The county or city: An industrial zoning permit may be required. If you are within 200 feet of a shoreline or within the 100 year floodplain you may require a Shoreline Permit. Depending on the county that you live in there may be building permits requirements.
3. Contact your local [clean air agency](#) or the Ecology Regional Air Quality Program; you may need an air quality permit called a [Notice of Construction](#) (NOC) permit.
4. Depending on the amount of wastewater ("wastewater" means water and wastes discharged from homes, businesses, and industry to the sewer system) you are discharging during the biodiesel process your business may require a [State Waste Discharge Permit](#) or [National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit](#) (NPDES) from the Department of Ecology.
5. Contact the [Department of Licensing](#) regarding the Special Fuel Blender license and tax form if you intend to blend your biodiesel. The link to the license and tax information is: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/441750.pdf>.
6. If you hire someone to collect used oil for you that person is required to get a General Commodities Permit from the [Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission](#) (UTC). If you collect the oil yourself you do not require this permit.

Health, Safety and Environmental Considerations

- Contact your local waste water treatment facility to verify which chemical types and amounts can be put down the drain. You may be liable if your discharge affects their system.
- It is illegal to dispose of any pollutant into a storm drain, ditch, sewer, stream or the ground.
- It is illegal to put anything other than domestic wastewater into a septic system. Do not put any biodiesel or chemical byproducts into a septic system.
- If you produce a bad batch of biodiesel contact a used oil hauler to collect it. The following link has information on hazardous waste and used oil collection facilities within Washington, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hwfacilities/index.html>.
- For information on how to dispose of chemicals or products contact your local health department or solid waste utility. The following link provides Department of Health contact information for each county, [Washington State Local Health Departments/Districts - Map and text links](#).

- The area where you manufacture biodiesel should have proper ventilation to protect yourself from fumes. Check with the local fire marshal or [clean air agency](#) for specific details.
- Biodiesel reactors should be a closed system not open to the environment.
- Always wear safety goggles, chemical resistant gloves and a chemical resistant apron when working with any chemicals.
- Keep children and animals away from the processing area.
- Have a [spill kit](#) and fire extinguishers on site.
- Have proper storage for chemicals and biodiesel
 - Chemicals should not be stored near heat or ignition sources.
 - Chemicals should be stored with secondary containment, such as a small container within a larger container.
 - Chemicals should be stored in High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or other compatible storage containers.
 - Label containers with what is inside and purchase or batch date.
- Be knowledgeable about the chemicals you are using. Mixing certain chemicals can be dangerous.

If you have any other questions about environmental permits for small scale biodiesel please contact the Office of Regulatory Assistance at 1-800-917-0043 or www.ora.wa.gov.